

VERONICA MORTENSEN HAPPINESS

...is not included

That Veronica Mortensen has spent most of her childhood in Athens, Greece, is not something, that immediately is heard in the music of the artist. But that she should take the path of music, being the daughter of two musicians, was a wholly natural choice.

Back in 2003, Veronica Mortensen - educated at Det Jyske Musikkonservatorium (The Music Conservatory of Jutland) & Rytmisk Musik Konservatorium (The Rhythmic Music Conservatory) in Copenhagen - released Pieces Of A Puzzle, her first cd in her own name. The reviewers were ecstatic in Denmark and abroad, and since then Veronica and her group has toured in Denmark, Poland and in Asia.

The new cd, entitled Happiness - Is Not Included, possesses the same spirit as the former. Again Veronica distinguishes herself as a brilliant songwriter, who has - by the way - had several pieces arranged by bigbands - but this time she has also given attention to singular tunes by Tom Waits, James Taylor and Paul Simon. She moves in the direction of a jazz oriented singer/songwriter style, and writes the greater part of the material herself. The songs are appealing, without being anxious to please, melodic without being seductive. First of all they are personal. And they are being carried wonderfully by the airy voice of Veronica Mortensen.

The music was recorded in the highly regarded swedish Nilento Studio in cooperation with Morten Eriksen, producer from the Danish town of Aarhus, who has been processing the music in his private computer/electronica wringer. Discrete, oh yes, but enough to add edge and personality to the music.

Piano player Mads Baerentzen - in great shape - sends small greetings to Jan Johansen and the outstanding Lennart Ginman on bass, underlines in a duet with Veronica Mortensen, why The Beatles' In My Life recently was declared the Best Pop Tune in the world. Why drummer Jeppe Gram is being spoken of by so many we fully understand, and the charming trumpet of Jesper Riis snuggles up with warmth and elegance on more than half of the 11 tracks.

One can only experience bliss from listening to Happiness - Is Not Included.

Beyond The Rainbow / Waiting For The Daylight / Broken Bicycles / Too Late / In My Life / Happiness Is Not Included / Lovely is she / Valentines Day / Think Twice / I Do It For Your Love / Let The Sandman Come.

Veronica Mortensen (voc), Jesper Riis (tp), Mads Bærentzen (p) , Lennart Ginman (b), Jeppe Gram (d), Morten Eriksen (keys & program), Peter Dombernowsky (perc).

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